



January 18, 2011

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the officers and the 700,000 members of the Communications Workers of America, we urge you to oppose efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. We worked long and hard to achieve meaningful gains in that legislation, and we will not abide the repeal of this valuable law. Repeal would cause numerous problems for CWA members and other Americans:

1. Parents will lose the right to keep their children on their insurance plan until the age of 26.
2. Plans will be able to limit the amount of benefits they pay out in a year or in a lifetime, leaving millions of Americans vulnerable to bankruptcy due to high health costs.
3. Medicare participants who have already benefited from the Act closing the prescription drug "donut hole" would return to the days of pill splitting and tough decisions about the purchase of medically necessary drugs.
4. Small business would no longer be eligible for tax credits to help provide workers with insurance
5. Business will no longer have access to the government reinsurance program that helps them maintain affordable coverage for early retirees
6. State will no longer receive money to run high-risk insurance pools for those with pre-existing conditions
7. Insurance plans will no longer be required to cover preventive care without any cost sharing
8. Insurance companies will be able to charge individuals higher premiums if they are women or if they have a diagnosed condition.
9. Insurance companies will resume their ability to deny coverage to children and others because of pre-existing conditions

Finally, repeal of the Act would destroy any hope of controlling out of control health care costs. Over the past few years, our union has struggled at the bargaining table to preserve quality health plans for our members in the face of skyrocketing health costs. We understand well a basic fact: the cost of family health plans negotiated by CWA will be more affordable as more Americans become insured. One study estimates the cost of covering the uninsured added more than \$1,000 to the cost of the typical family health plan. More than 30 million Americans are expected to gain coverage as a result of the Affordable Care Act. If the Act is repealed, not only will the uninsured continue to be hampered in their struggle to get secure, affordable coverage, but those of us who have insurance will see no cost relief. Our struggles to preserve coverage will be more difficult.

Again, we urge you to oppose efforts to repeal this critical legislation and to stand by the principle that every American deserves guaranteed, affordable health care.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane Larson', is written over a horizontal line.

Shane Larson
Legislative Director